

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An interacted support containing bound target whole cells from a mixture of whole cells,~~ comprising:

(a) ~~an azlactone-functional support comprising one or more base polymer supports containing an azlactone moiety,~~

(b) a biologically active substance covalently coupled to the support, and

(c) target whole cells ~~interacting with~~ bound to said substance,

wherein the ~~azlactone-functional~~ support comprises one or more base polymer supports that have been ~~prescreened and~~ identified as exhibiting minimal nonspecific binding of ~~the non-target~~ whole cells of the mixture of whole cells.

13. (Currently Amended) The support of Claim 12, wherein ~~the azlactone-functional support is a support having a surface comprising azlactone moieties,~~ the support is in the form of ~~comprising~~ a bead, a particulate, a membrane, a blended article, a graft copolymeric article, a woven web, a nonwoven web, a solid plastic particle, or any combination thereof.

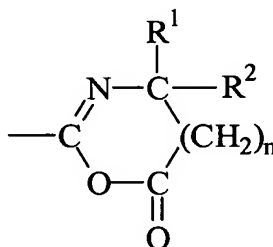
14. (Original) The support of Claim 12, wherein the biologically active substance is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, lectins, proteins, antigens, avidin, and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The support of Claim 12, wherein the biologically active substance indirectly interacts with the whole cells through a second, intermediary biologically

active substance that is bifunctional to both the whole cells and the azlactone-functional support.

16. (Original) The support of Claim 13, wherein the solid plastic article is a microtitration well, a microtitration plate, a petri dish, medical tubing, a test tube, a centrifuge tube, a beaker, a cuvette, or a body implant.

17. (Original) The support of Claims 12, wherein the azlactone-functional support prior to covalent coupling with the biologically active substance has at least one azlactone-functional group of a formula:



Wherein:

R^1 and R^2 independently can be an alkyl group having 1 to 14 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 14 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 5 to 12 ring atoms, an arenyl group having 6 to 26 carbon atoms and 0 to 3 S, N, and nonperoxidic O heteroatoms, or R^1 and R^2 taken together with the carbon to which they are joined can form a carbocyclic ring containing 4 to 12 ring atoms, and n is an integer 0 or 1.

18. (New) The support of Claim 12 wherein the target whole cell is a blood cell and the mixture of whole cells is a blood sample.